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LSU SHREVEPORT

The Almagest


Volume 45, Issue 1

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WEEKLY WEATHER

Today:	
Hi: 53	Lo: 45
Friday:	Hi: 60 Lo: 39
AM Showers	
Saturday:	Hi: 63 Lo: 46
Partly Cloudy	
Sunday:	Hi: 60 Lo: 37
Partly Cloudy	
Monday:	Hi: 53 Lo: 28
Partly Cloudy	
Tuesday:	Hi: 60 Lo: 19
AM clouds/PM sun	
Wednesday:	Hi: 51 Lo: 33
Partly Cloudy	

Students receive freebies at SAB's 'Bash'

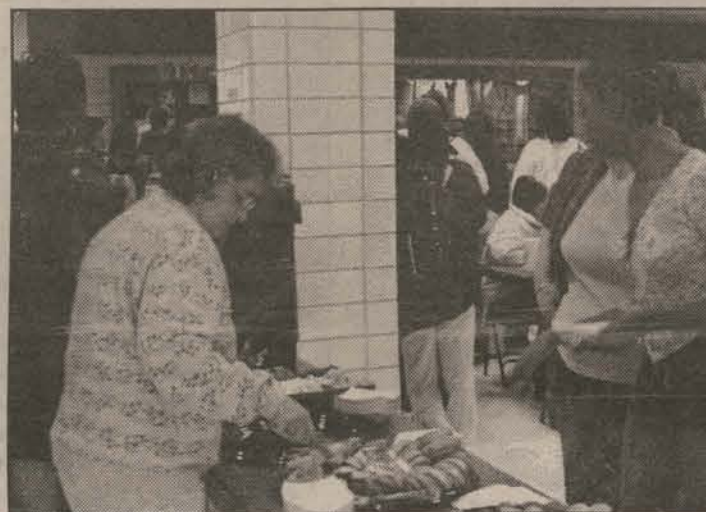
BY ERIC PULSIFER

The Welcome Back Bash wraps up today in the university center after a week of events sponsored by the Student Activities Board. On Tuesday students escaped from the winter cold and packed into the University Center to participate in various activities.

Students received free food, drinks and plastic mugs featuring the Welcome Back Bash logo. The festivities began shortly after 10 a.m. with a karaoke contest until events wrapped up at 11:15 a.m.

Last year's popular wax hands activity returned, allowing students once again to submerge their hand in ice water and then quickly into a vat of hot wax to create a multicolored wax hand awarding the observer with thumbs up.

Laurie Green, a senior majoring in criminal justice, transferred to LSUS two semesters ago and



BECKY MAYO

Students gathered in the UC Tuesday for free food and entertainment during 'Welcome Back Bash.'

said she was surprised at the turnout.

"I didn't know you did stuff like this for the students at all. It's really fun," she said.

Various challenges for sports fans, athletically inclined or otherwise, were set up by Rec Sports, including a basketball free throw contest, foosball, ping-pong and

two big screen TVs for a Playstation 2 sports video game tournament.

"I'm glad to see the school starting to develop a student life," said David Alexander, a junior biology major. Alexander said he enjoyed the events but was especially fond of the free pastries.

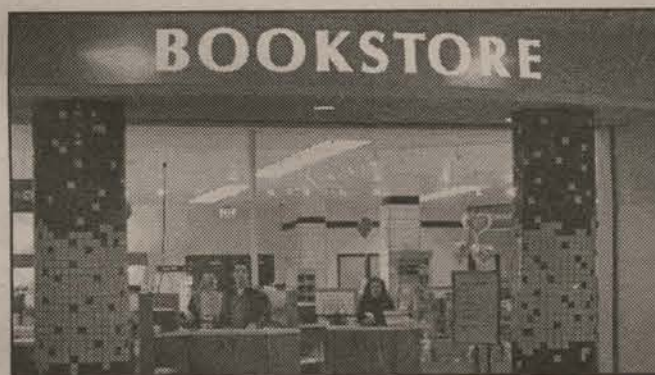
Wednesday evening's activities included a Wheel of Fortune tournament with LSUS-inspired puzzles and free snacks at the University Court Apartments.

Today is the last day of events in the UC, including the Student Organization Council fair during which student organizations sell food to raise money for their groups.

Other activities will include "Picture Yourself," where students can have a photo of their face placed into comical backdrops, free 2004 planners, more

SEE BASH PAGE 5

New bookstore offers more services



NIKKI MORA

The new bookstore offers students a larger variety and more services than its former version.

BY LAURIE DI ULIO

LSUS students now have a bigger and better bookstore to handle their myriad of back-to-school needs. The new store, located on the first floor of the technology center, opened on Jan. 12 with about double the amount of floor space as the old bookstore in the University Center.

Many of the features of the new bookstore are the same as the old one, but the layout gives students easier ac-

cess to services available. There is a copy center near the entrance of the store and the store now offers report-binding services. A color copier is planned for the near future.

The extra room has allowed for additional merchandise, such as a greater selection of backpacks,

school and computer supplies, gifts and clothing. Compact discs are available for sale, and plans to sell magazines are also in the works. They are still carrying the same amount of textbooks since those are ordered based on need, but the extra floor space allows those books to be displayed in a more organized manner.

One new feature is the use of Point of Sale at the five checkout counters.

SEE BOOKSTORE PAGE 7

New management docks in The Port

BY NIKKI MORA

"Always treat people how you want to be treated," said Lonnie Moore, the new manager of The Port. "That is something I always say."

Moore is using that philosophy to bring many changes to The Port this semester. The cafeteria is currently a place where people can eat, study or socialize. It will remain this way but will be improved upon through Moore's plans as the new manager. He says he is dedicated to ensuring the satisfaction of students, faculty and staff members.

"I'm excited to be here," said Moore. "My team and I will bring quick, friendly service with a smile. We want students and faculty to choose The Port for their dining."

Increasing customer satisfaction is his goal, and faster service is an improvement he will work to bring to The Port this semester. Moore said he wants the change to be impressive to newcomers to the Port and noticeable to those who already spend time there.

"It's a good atmosphere to hang out with friends," said Erin Drum, a junior psychology major. "Service can be really slow, but overall the food is

SEE THE PORT PAGE 7

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Suzanne Bright, faculty adviser

Corrections

In the Dec. 4, 2003 issue, we quoted Michael Ferrell from an e-mail in which we did not know was not intended for publication.

Editorial Policy

The information presented in this publication by no means reflects the opinions of the administration or staff of LSUS. *The Almagest* seeks to provide information for the LSUS campus and community; to involve students, faculty and staff; and to provide a public forum for ideas as guaranteed in the First Amendment of the Constitution. Letters to the Editor are encouraged. However, the staff reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, length, and content. Any letter submitted by a club or organization must be signed by all members of the group or by the group's president. *The Almagest* reserves the right not to publish submitted materials.

The Almagest is published on Thursday mornings and is printed by the Natchitoches Times.

Comments and complaints are welcome and should be addressed to Candice Leone, Editor-in-Chief. They must be accompanied by your full name and email address.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I usually do not respond to articles in the *Almagest* because I recognize the value of the paper as a laboratory for our journalism students and because I believe strongly in the freedom of the press. As Chancellor, I am aware that a letter from me could be interpreted as an effort to exert administrative control over the newspaper; however, I feel compelled to write you because of the front page article published on December 4 in which I am reported to have made "racial remarks." I want to use this forum to assure any concerned members of our university community that I am, and have always been, committed to providing a teaching and learning atmosphere which, as the university equal access policy states, "assures equal opportunity for all qualified persons without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, sexual orientation, disability, marital status, pregnancy, sickle cell trait or veterans' status in the admission to, participation in, or employment in its programs and activities."

I was surprised and dismayed that my informal comments at a faculty meeting could be interpreted as racist as they certainly were not intended to be. As those who know me will attest, I have worked throughout my career to promote diversity, and I address the need to increase the numbers of minority faculty, staff and students at almost every meeting I attend. I continually remind the vice chancellors that they must conduct affirmative action searches and strive to increase diversity on campus.

I was not interviewed for the article, so I will attempt to address the issues raised. I also want to emphasize that I respect Mr. Foster's right to express his opinions, and I appreciate the contributions he has made to the university and our students. I disagree with his interpretation of my remarks and actions, and I want to state emphatically that I am not a racist, nor did I intend to denigrate anyone.

I addressed the faculty in the College of Education and Human Development for one reason only - my goal of meeting with all faculty and staff during this academic year. I did not attempt to influence anyone's vote during the gubernatorial election. I do not take a public stand on any gubernatorial election, nor did I publicly or privately support a candidate. Since LSUS is a public university, we must work cooperatively with whomever is elected, and my position as Chancellor requires that I work diligently to strengthen our relationships with all elected officials. I do vote in every election, but I keep my vote and my preferences very private. My preference is very private as I believe is appropriate for my position. I did say that Bobby Jindal's election would require us to submit a lot of paperwork because I know of his interest in data during his tenure as

head of the University of Louisiana system. At no time did I comment on Mr. Jindal's skin color. I did say that he was a minority candidate, a fact nobody could dispute. As a historian with a special interest in Louisiana politics, I naturally would comment on the drama of this election which resulted, for the first time in history, in a runoff between a minority male and a white female. I regret that Mr. Foster interpreted my remarks as disrespectful to Mr. Jindal or as racist. I am sensitive to remarks about skin color or tone, and I don't make derogatory remarks about either.

I did not mispronounce African American. I used the term, Afro-American, a word which is in common usage and a term which is not disrespectful of those of African heritage. I understand that different terms are in vogue at certain times, but my use of Afro-American in addition to African American is not racist or disrespectful. My dictionary lists both terms with the same definitions, and the appropriate term is simply a matter of the speaker's personal preference.

Mr. Foster certainly has the right to decide whether he wishes to discuss his concerns with me personally, but the statement that his grievance and concerns were not "addressed" is not true. His concerns were handled through the university processes developed to address faculty and staff grievances. Mr. Foster may not have liked the results, but his grievance was addressed.

It is true that we have too few Afro-American faculty members, and that is a personal concern which I continually urge our academic officers to address. I believe that our deans and chairs have and are continuing to make every effort to increase the minority presence on our faculty. I will continue to support that effort, and I will continue to do everything that I can to bring more diversity to our campus.

Mr. Foster has been a valued member of this community for over twenty years. I regret that he is leaving with hard feelings, but I hope that he will reconsider his decision not to discuss his concerns with me. I have a full calendar, but Jackie will make an appointment as soon as possible for anyone who wants to see me on any issue.

Thank you for printing this letter and helping me to communicate with our students.

Respectfully submitted,
Vincent Marsala
Chancellor

Editor's note

The preceding letter was sent via e-mail to all faculty and staff immediately after the Dec. 4, 2003 publication of *The Almagest*. Due to the lapse in time between issues, the university community has had time to respond to Marsala's letter, and we have chosen to print them concurrently in this issue.

The Almagest letters policy

The Almagest requests your reactions through letters to the editor. Letters should be typed and double spaced. Please include your classification and major. Letters should be submitted to *the Almagest* office, BH 344, by 5 p.m. on the Friday preceding the Thursday publication date. Obscene, libelous and anonymous letters will not be printed.

The Almagest reserves the right to edit all letters.

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the front page Almagest article of December 4, 2003 regarding Assistant Professor Maxie Foster's resignation. I will address only some of the error-filled and inflammatory comments by Foster and his close friend Jesse DeMello. Chancellor Marsala made neither derogatory nor racial comments about Bobby Jindal at the Oct. 28 COEHD faculty meeting as Maxie Foster claimed. That could have been political suicide had Blanco not won and Chancellor Marsala, an excellent politician, certainly would not put himself in such a position. He did note that we'd have a minority governor, no matter who should win, but he absolutely did not mention Jindal's 'dark skin' as Foster said, nor did I perceive him as trying to influence my vote. On an unrelated matter he did mention a potential hire of a black faculty member at LSU falling through because the individual turned down a \$200,000 offer. He was speaking in the context of difficulties in increasing black faculty numbers, something that he is clearly interested in seeing happen. I know for a fact that Chancellor Marsala has urged the hiring of minorities and that he very recently arranged for special accommodations for a black inner-city student from St. Louis. A racist wouldn't be interested in hiring more blacks and certainly wouldn't go out of his way to help a black student.

Jesse DeMello stated that Foster "is the most sensitive and considerate man I have ever known." I can't argue with the sensitivity issue; hypersensitivity seems to be his problem. Considerate? Not in this case! Otherwise he would not have gone to the Almagest with his resignation story, but would have met in a professional manner with the Chancellor to present his complaints. Is he angry? Yes, Foster is obviously an angry man, but his anger is excessive and misdirected. In my fifteen years at LSUS I have seen the composition of the student body increase remarkably in terms of the numbers of black stu-

dents in attendance and I have seen good faith efforts at increasing black faculty presence by both faculty and administrators. In my six years as Dean of the College of Education we hired four black and two oriental faculty members, initiated a Black History Month Speaker Series, and established a Minority Affairs Committee which was a model for a similar committee subsequently set up at the University level. We were unceasingly sensitive to making black students feel comfortable and welcomed and those sorts of efforts continue in our College to the present. I cannot speak with any authority about racial sensitivity in other Colleges, but if this really is the problem that Foster makes it out to be, why does our black enrollment continue to climb?

I'm not so foolish as to think that there is no racism at LSUS. But is the situation getting better? Obviously we are making progress, and I agree with Foster that the progress is painfully slow. However, racism exists to some degree everywhere people of different races coexist and LSUS is no exception. But let's not forget that racists appear among black, white, Asian, and Hispanic folk.

I was advised not to write this letter, that no one survives unscathed in public arguments about racism. However, I could not let Foster's attack go unanswered. Chancellor Marsala, this University, and my College are committed to inclusion. I am sorry that Foster is angry and hypersensitive. While he has my sympathy, my loyalty to LSUS drives my concern and my decision to respond aggressively. I wish Mr. Foster well, but if he thinks that he'll leave "racist" LSUS and find a racial utopia in Georgia, he's being very naïve.

Ronald Byrd
Professor
Department of Kinesiology and
Health Science

Dear Almagest:

I was disappointed to read your article in the December 4 issue of the Almagest concerning the alleged "racist comments" by our Chancellor, Dr. Marsala. For such an article to be printed in the Almagest without including a response by the Chancellor is slanted, grossly unfair and potentially damaging to the University.

Having worked with the Chancellor on and off over the past thirty years, I find any allegation of racism against him to be inconsistent with his beliefs, behaviour, and his role as an educator in our community. In fact, this past summer we had the opportunity to interview a minority faculty member in the College of Sciences. After interviewing her himself, Dr. Marsala encouraged us to hire her, saying that we were fortunate to have such a fine minority applicant and that he hoped we could make her an attractive enough offer to bring her to LSUS.

After reading the vague allegations regarding the Chancellor's, "highly inciteful political and racial remarks", without substantive evidence of such, I have to wonder whether Mr. Foster's resignation and desire for media attention without first trying to resolve his grievances with the Chancellor are not a subterfuge for another agenda.

William A. Vekovius, PhD
Dean of the College of Sciences

Dear Editor,

In the last fall issue of the Almagest, December 4, 2003, we were told that Maxie Foster, assistant professor of Kinesiology and Health Science, after 21 years at LSUS, has resigned. He cited as his reason, practices of racism, discrimination, and double standards by Chancellor Vincent Marsala. He accused Dr. Marsala of being insensitive to the needs of the minority population on campus. No better example exists of Dr. Marsala's insensitivity than his response to that Almagest article.

In the second paragraph of his response, Dr. Marsala admits to making statements that could have been interpreted as racist. He, like the owners of plantations who were surprised and dismayed to learn their slaves were not happy to be slaves, was "surprised and dismayed that [his] informal comments at a faculty meeting could be interpreted as

racist...."

Dr. Marsala adamantly defends himself against accusations of being a racist. It has been my experience as an African-American that those who are not racists have no need to defend themselves.

The most insensitive segment of Dr. Marsala's response deals with the issue of the term "African-American." This also was an example of Dr. Marsala's insensitivity listed by Maixe Foster. Dr. Marsala states that the term "Afro-American" is not offensive to those of African heritage. He suggests that because we have called ourselves different names at different times, and that "African-American" is in vogue right now that he can decide for himself a name that is appropriate for us. He consults his dictionary to determine what to call us and then deliberately uses that term

"As we have become more educated about our history, many of us have come to prefer the term 'African-American' as one that best defines us. Some prefer the term 'black' and others prefer simply, 'American.'"

-Pamela Hamilton
Senior
Mass Communications

Have a story idea?

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e-mail us at

almagest@pilot.lsus.edu

SEE HAMILTON PAGE 7

Telephone directories delayed because of new payroll system

BY SARA SULLIVAN

Every year the human resources department compiles and distributes telephone directories that contain contact information for faculty, staff and retirees in order to ease communication among campus employees and students. Telephone directories for the 2003-2004 academic year were not distributed until December via e-mail.

Fred Krieg, director of human resource management, explained that the directories were put out later this year because of a huge software change which affected the payroll system.

"We put our priorities (with the payroll system)," said Krieg.

He explained that the department thought it would be easier for professors and staff to be able to print out the directories at their convenience through e-mail rather than sending the directories to the book store to be printed and delay distribution any further.

Much time and effort has been put into a new computer system that affects everything from admissions to payroll.

"We started having to go out two hours a day to learn the new payroll system," explained Human Resource Manager Amie Prather.

Prather agreed that most people think payroll takes precedence over telephone directories.

Compiling a telephone directory of over 600 data entries takes the time and effort of the human resources department, faculty and staff. The human resources department sends out hard copy data sheets for employees to fill

out and return. If a professor or staff member neglects to turn in a data sheet, last year's information is used.

"Every year, a lot of people don't turn in their sheet," said Prather.

When faculty and staff do not update their information, it appears as though it is the fault of the human resources department, she said.

Both Krieg and Prather think the university would benefit from a Web-based telephone directory for campus use.

"Everyone can update their files themselves," said Krieg.

A Web-based directory would eliminate the human resources department from having to serve as the liaison between

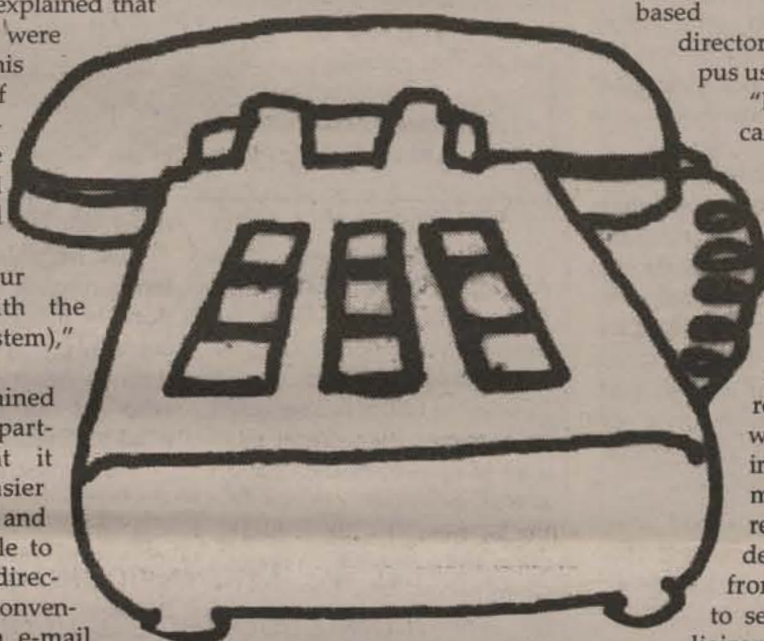
faculty and staff and printed data. Information could be updated at any time and therefore make the data recording process more efficient and easier to use.

Technical Services Coordinator Mollie Schmelzer supports the idea of a web-based directory.

"It will be so much easier when you're already on the Internet to click on something and find a number than to stop what you're doing to find a directory," she said.

Schmelzer said the Office of Student Activities primarily uses the directory to help students locate professors.

Krieg foresees more possibilities with a Web-based directory this time next year, because the department is still learning the new software program.



Plagiarism still a problem despite required booklet

BY PAMELA HAMILTON

Academic misconduct has risen on campus.

"We are getting way too many students having to appear before the [Student Conduct] Board," said Dr. Merrell Knighten, dean of the college of liberal arts. He refers to the act of plagiarism.

Academic misconduct is defined by the Student Conduct Code as "a most serious and reprehensible type of student misconduct." Instructors must formally charge students whom they suspect of plagiarism, or other academic misconduct.

According to Knighten, the rash of plagiarism cases has consisted of students from all majors and classifications.

"Many students don't understand the difference between research and plagiarism," said Knighten. A formal charge of plagiarism, he said, can affect a student's entire life.

The Student Conduct Code requires that the university make a "determined effort to prevent" academic misconduct.

"A drastic intervention was needed," said Dr. Stuart E. Mills, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. "We want to help students," he said. "We want to see them do well."

As a solution, the Student Conduct Board recommended last fall that the purchase of Prentice Hall's Guide to Understanding Plagiarism by Thomas Jewell be placed on all syllabi.

The 28-page book costs \$8.75 at the LSUS bookstore. Knighten said that Prentice Hall's Guide was deliberately chosen as an alternative to a more expensive book.

A number of students consider the purchase of the book to be unnecessary. Joey Adams, a freshman undecided major, said he didn't want to buy the book, because he knew a lot about plagiarism already. "I'm buying [the book] because it's required," he said.

Dr. Lawanda J. Blakeney, instructor of music, conducted an informal survey among her students to see how many students had bought the book.

"I was curious," she said. "I wanted to know who would buy books without being monitored."

Only about one-third of her students, Blakeney said, had purchased the book. She found, however, that some students had elected to purchase the book together and share it.

Relying on the copy of the book held by the library is not a workable solution, according to Knighten. Some instructors, he said, will give in-class assignments from it.

According to Cindy Armstrong, director of purchasing and auxiliary enterprises at the LSUS Bookstore, approximately 4,000 books were ordered last semester, but only about 1,000 copies were sold. Figures for this semester were unavailable at press time.

"We won't examine backpacks for the book," said Mills. He said purchasing the book is a part of adult responsibility. Claiming ignorance of the rules is not enough, he said.

"If a student is brought before the Board on charges of plagiarism," said Knighten, "and the Board can establish that the student was informed to purchase the book, but didn't, then the student is a dead duck."



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BE building needs repairing

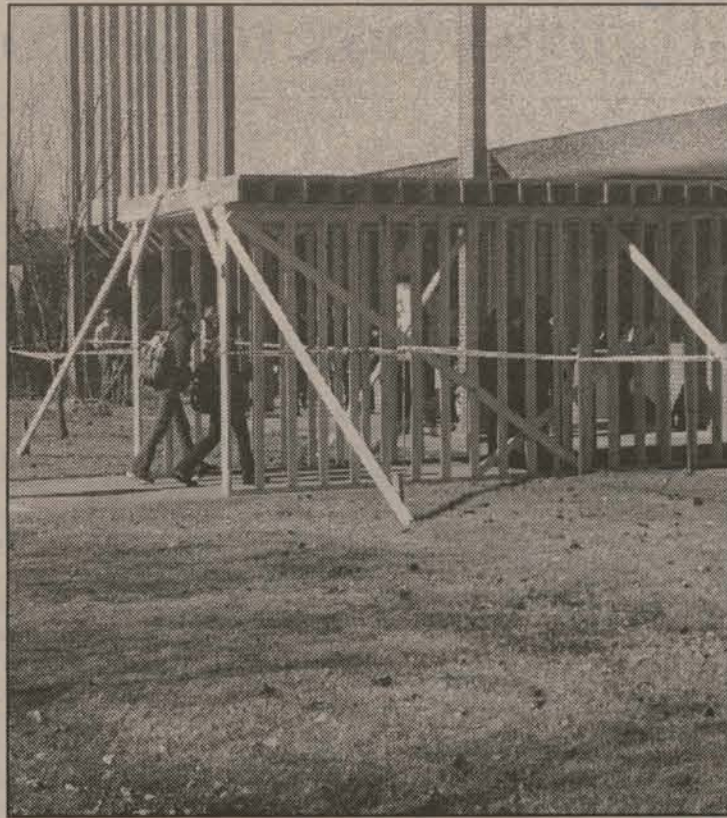
BY TASHA HICKS

It is hard not to notice the barriers and tunnels surrounding the Business Education building. A panel on the building fell off and is being repaired. Students on campus this semester have most likely had to take a different route to get to class in the BE Building and some other areas of campus.

Last month, roof damage was reported following a bad storm. During the inspection of the damage, another problem was found. Another panel on the south side of the building was loose and needed repair. Contractors, architects and engineers inspected all other panels and found no further damage. Days later, in the middle of the night, the panel next to the one that had been loose fell. The panel was located above the third story on the side of the building facing the mall area.

Barriers and tunnels have been erected around the building in efforts to protect faculty and students. The barriers prevent students and faculty from being in the path of falling debris and restrict access to the potentially unsafe areas around the building.

"We want to make sure our students are safe," said Mike Ferrell, vice chancellor of busi-



NIKKI MORA

The barriers erected in front of the BE building were placed there to protect students from loose debris.

ness affairs. "We don't want anybody hurt."

"It's nice to see the administration is taking the necessary precautions and acting in a timely manner to ensure the safety of the students and faculty," said Ashley Sanders, junior history/political science major.

In addition to the barriers,

the administration is making sure they get to the root of the problems. Experts were on campus recently to inspect all areas of the building to assess the damage done by the falling panel and to ensure no other panels fall.

"We are trying to be proactive," said Ferrell. "I need someone who has the expertise to say 'here are some bad spots and this is what needs to be done to repair it.'"

The administration expects to receive a report on the building and the extent of the damage in the next few weeks. The barriers and tunnels will remain in place until the administration is informed of the results of the examination.

Xavier's Golden Nuggets overpower Lady Pilots

BY PRISCILLA TURNER

On Thursday, Jan. 22 the Lady Pilots lost to the Xavier Golden Nuggets 59-40. The Xavier Golden Nuggets are ranked 13th in the NAIA Women's Basketball Conference. This was the sixth conference game and sixth home game for the Lady Pilots.

The game got off to a quick start when Xavier scored first within the first two minutes of the game. The Lady Pilots battled with Xavier and finally scored with 17 minutes remaining in the first quarter.

Halftime score was Lady Pilots 22, Golden Nuggets 39. The leading scorer for the Lady Pilots was Kendera Monnet with six points.

Despite their loss on Thursday, the Lady Pilots beat Southern University of New Orleans five days before. This was the biggest win according to a sports release from Allan Cantwell, sports information director.

Doug Robinson, director of athletics, said, "In my wildest dreams, I didn't think our men and women would be doing this good. It is a reflection on our coaches and players."

This was proven when the Lady Pilots, led by Coach Ronnie

Howell, allowed only 20 points in the second half against Xavier. He said that many coaches are impressed with LSUS Basketball because of their record in the first year of play. The Lady Pilots are 1-4 in the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference and 5-11 in season play.

Robinson said that many universities do not win five games in their first season. However, the Lady Pilots have already won five games because of the determination of the players and coaches.

LSUS students get into the games free with a student ID. Non-LSUS students and children between the ages of six and 12 can see the action for \$3. Children six and under get in free. Season passes are available for \$50. Faculty, staff, foundation members and alumni can purchase a season pass for \$25.

For those who haven't seen the Lady Pilots in action yet, there are six home games left. The Lady Pilots will be coming home following two away conference games. The action will take place on Jan. 30 at 5:30 p.m.

For more information or to stay up-to-date on the Lady Pilots, log on to <http://www.lsus.edu/womensbasketball>.

BASH

continued from page 1

karaoke and "Make Your Own CD," giving students a chance to record their own karaoke-style CDs with a personalized album cover.

"We hope to give [the students] an opportunity they normally wouldn't have," said Mollie Schmelzer, the SAB adviser. Schmelzer also hopes to get

people excited about the new semester.

Schmelzer said this is the second year the bash has taken place in its current format, though equivalents have been going on for years.

Schmelzer hopes the bash will give students a sense of what the SAB is all about and get to students involved. Those interested should contact Schmelzer at 797-5393.

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SPORTS

Baseball bleachers and press box to be constructed

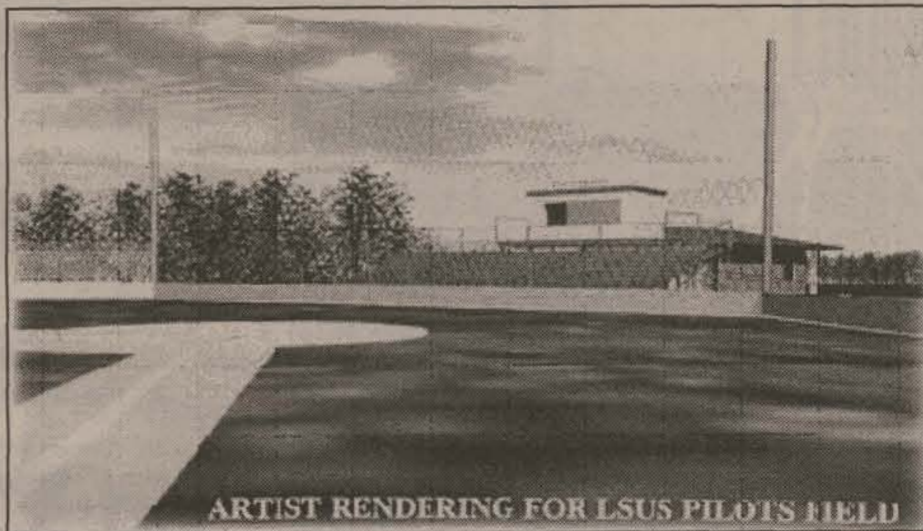
BY NIKKI BUTLER

For all the fans who are tired of packing up lawn chairs and seat cushions and dragging them to the baseball field—those days are soon over.

Plans are currently in the making to build new bleachers at the baseball field that will accommodate approximately 250 people and a new press box. Fans will no longer have to worry about finding a place to sit when they attend Pilot baseball games.

What brought about the new renovations? The Pilots ranked number three in the nation last year after having a tremendous season and placing third in the NAIA World Series in Idaho last spring.

The construction is being funded by the athletic department, donations made to the school and funds from the university. The new facilities will help add to the baseball team's image and create more space for fans to come and watch the games.



ARTIST RENDERING FOR LSUS PILOTS FIELD

COURTESY OF PILOTS BASEBALL

The construction of the bleachers and press box on the baseball field is expected to begin the first week of February.

"We're very excited about the renovations," said Doug Robinson, LSUS athletic director. "This is something we have needed for a long time. It's going to be

very nice."

With the Pilots quickly making a name for themselves, Robinson hopes the new renovations will help to recruit new

players in the future. He also hopes the comfort of the new facility will bring more fans out to the ballpark.

"I'm excited because the fans and players deserve the new facilities because of the amount of exposure they received last year," said Debbie Cox, mother of players Chase and Russell Cox. "The team is drawing more fans and needs the additional room. My only disappointment is that it isn't already finished. I think the new construction is definitely going to give the school a better image."

Cox also commends Coach Rocky Musgrave on his work with the Pilots.

"He has worked really hard to build up the program at LSUS," she said. "He has put in countless hours into keeping up the field."

The construction at the field is estimated to begin the first week in February, just in time for the new season. Spectators can come out and see the Pilots in action at their first game of the season at home against Texas College on Wednesday, Feb. 4 at 4 p.m.

Rec sports offers Pilates class

BY BRANDI REGISTER

Beginning Feb. 3, free Pilates classes will be held in the HPE building on Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 5 p.m. The non-credit class is being offered by the recreational sports department and is being taught by Carrie Laing, a sophomore liberal arts major at LSUS.

Laing is a certified Pilates instructor and has been practicing it for two years. She also teaches Pilates classes at Christus-Schumpert Wellness Center and Bossier Rehab and Fitness.

Laing said many people think that Pilates is a form of yoga, but it is not.

"Pilates is similar to yoga, but it is different because it stretches and strengthens your body through continuous movement; no position is held like in yoga," said Laing. "Pilates is for everyone from middle school to senior citizens, although the majority is usually women."

Pilates was created by Joseph Pilates in the 1930s to rehabilitate soldiers injured during World

War I. According to <http://www.bodytrends.com>, Pilates focuses on building a healthy, injury-free body by encouraging controlled and concentrated movement. It centers the body with breathing awareness while maintaining dynamic spiral stabilization.

The exercise program has also been used to rehabilitate people with knee, shoulder, hip and back injuries. Laing said there are modified movements for people who have such injuries.

The Pilates class is now scheduled for half of the semester, but could be offered the entire semester if students stay interested. Bryan Schmidt, recreational sports coordinator, said they offered cardio kickboxing last semester and students grew tired of

the class.

"If the response is good we will keep the Pilates class and also add another fitness class, which will probably be circuit training," said Schmidt.

To sign up for the class, visit the recreational sports Web site at <http://www.lsus.edu/osa/recsports.htm>.

"Pilates is similar to Yoga ... it stretches and strengthens your body through continuous movement"

*-Carrie Laing
Pilates Instructor*



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U.S. Department of Transportation

BOOKSTORE

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The new system of scanning merchandise will allow the store to better keep up with inventory and restocking. Since the system is brand new, bookstore employees are still working through some initial issues.

Students are reacting positively to the new bookstore. Laura Dies, an MLA student, was impressed with the set up of the store.

"It's more organized than the old one," said Dies.

Rose Marie Gleason, a senior sociology major, said the new store is "absolutely lovely."

Gleason did express concern, however, about the back-pack cubbies being placed outside of the bookstore.

"I don't like these back-packs on the outside because of the theft factor," said Gleason.

Cindy Armstrong, director of purchasing and auxiliary enterprises, is very pleased with the new store. She said they are still in an adjustment period and all of the kinks haven't been worked out, but they are well on their way for a smooth transition.

"We're working hard to be customer friendly," said Armstrong.

She said they are always open to suggestions that students would like to see and they are also interested in hearing about any problems that students come across.

Bookstore hours are from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday and 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

Hours are extended for convenience the first two weeks of classes and also during book buy-back periods.

THE PORT

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good. I look forward to the faster service because as a student I don't have a lot of time to wait on my food."

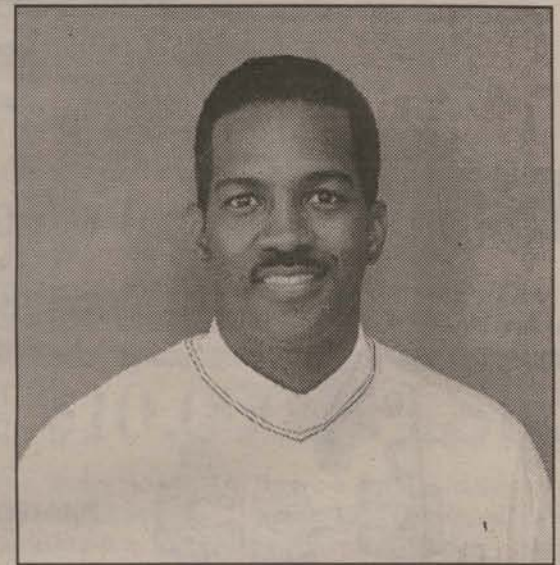
In addition to faster service, a new dollar menu will be offered, featuring corn dogs, hot dogs, grilled cheese and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and hash browns with an egg and toast. Another new feature is the \$5 lunch special which offers different items every week. Catering and banquet services are also available.

"The changes are in The Port's best interest," said Ollie Bradford, kitchen manager at The Port. "Employees and students will be happy and service will be faster."

According to Moore, these changes are the first of many, and we can all expect to see more improvements as the semester progresses.

Before coming to LSUS, Moore was employed with Harrah's Casino for four-and-a-half years. During that time, he held the titles of beverage supervisor, kitchen manager and fine dining manager.

Moore has also worked as a food and beverage manager for MGM Studios at Walt Disney



NIKKI MORA

Lonnie Moore, new manager of The Port, has high hopes for this semester.

The Port's hours are 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information, contact Moore at 797-5181.

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HAMILTON

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throughout the remainder of his response.

It is true that the African-American language is fluid as are most languages. This is due in part to the movements of African rhythms and motion upon which it is based; however, in reference to the names by which we identify ourselves, the reasons behind those changes are different.

We have only been allowed to name ourselves in this country for a little over a century. The name "Afro-American" was first popularized in the 1890s, but was soon overshadowed by the terms "Colored" and "Negro"-names less provocative to the white power structure, which institutionalized for us a system of subjugation unhindered until the 1960s.

For centuries prior to naming ourselves, we were given names like animal, chattel, property, slave, and nigger. Finally, in the 1960s, we gave ourselves names that reflected our identity as defined by us.

Contrary to the white power structure, we have never had a system of education to study who we are in this country and what that means. Self-determination for us has been and continues to be a long process.

Despite the confusion, which is rooted in the confusing history of slavery and segregation, the privilege of

determining the name by which we call ourselves remains with us.

As we have become more educated about our history, many of us have come to prefer the term "African-American" as one that best defines us. Some prefer the term "black" and others prefer simply, "American."

In consulting a dictionary to distinguish which term appropriately identifies us, Dr. Marsala proves nothing. A dictionary can be used to prove any point desired. Dr. Marsala wanted to use the term Afro-American so he found a way to prove that he could-a way that excluded African-American history and preference.

Why does Dr. Marsala insist upon using a term, which is dying out when "African-American" is so widely accepted? Why does Dr. Marsala discount Maxie Foster's preference? Why consult a dictionary rather than an educated African-American?

Dr. Marsala's insistence upon using the term "Afro-American" might easily be interpreted as an attempt to control what we should call ourselves. Historically, white men who have held positions of authority such as that of Dr. Marsala did not confine their desire for control to our identity, but extended it to our behavior.

We should question Dr. Marsala's commitment to acquiring and maintaining minority faculty and staff. Does

Dr. Marsala have a commitment to making the campus racially proportionate? If so, why does he not fight to keep one of the few African-American instructors who through his 21-year tenure has shown his commitment to remaining here?

Further, we should examine the list of 20 grievances submitted by Maxie Foster to Dr. Marsala. Why did not Dr. Marsala take Foster's grievances seriously enough to respond to them personally? Why did he allow a serious problem to escalate until he lost one of only five African-American instructors on campus?

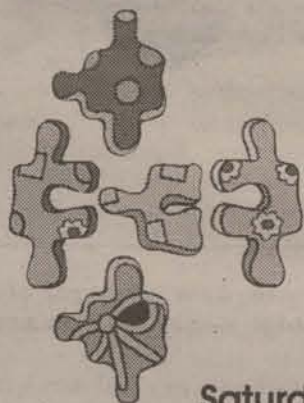
The final proof of Dr. Marsala's insensitivity is in the fact that nowhere in his response does Dr. Marsala take responsibility for the effects his statements had upon Foster. Dr. Marsala does not even offer an apology.

Before he submitted his response to the Almagest article, I visited Dr. Marsala in his office to ask him personally for his side of the story. I encourage the student body to do the same. I found him to be accessible and welcoming.

The student body appears to be racially harmonious. I'm sure most students would like to know that the administration has found a similar balance.

Calendar of Events

January is Love Yourself Month



Thursday, Jan. 29

National Puzzle Day

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

SGA meeting

6 p.m.

Pilots Basketball vs. Central Baptist

University

6 p.m.

IM Racquetball

Saturday, Jan. 31

Inspire Your Heart with Art Day

5:30 p.m.

LSUS Basketball vs. William Carey College



February is Black History Month

Monday, Feb. 2

Ground Hog Day

LSUS Basketball @ Tougaloo

College



Tuesday, Feb. 3

National Men's Grooming Day

3:30 p.m.

Rec Sports: Pilates

6 p.m.

IM Basketball

Wednesday, Feb. 4

USO Anniversary

8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

NCCJ/ Chancellor's Office Youth Leadership Day

6 p.m.

IM Basketball

Thursday, Feb. 5

National Weatherman's (Weatherpersons) Day

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

SGA meeting

5 p.m.

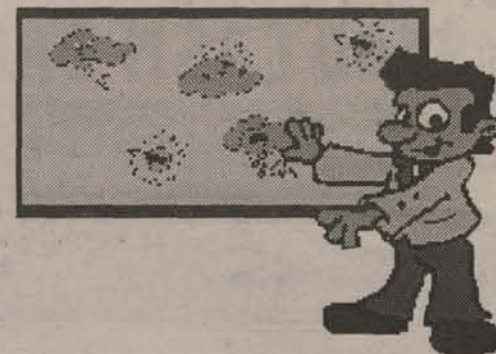
Rec Sports: Pilates

6 p.m. - 10 p.m.

MCAT Exam Prep \$599

6 p.m.

IM Racquetball



Jason's Flick Picks

BY JASON LIMERICK

Welcome back to a new semester of fun and excitement here at the old LSUS house of higher learnin'. I've got some exciting news folks— thanks to a partnership with our local Cinemark Tinseltown theater, we will now be able to enjoy real, honest-to-goodness in the movie house reviews. Gone are the days of the straight-to-video suggestions. We are now an up-to-date state-of-the-art movie reviews for your reading pleasure, and I couldn't be happier. So enjoy the reviews and don't forget to go to Tinseltown because they're cool.

Big Fish

Tim Burton has an unparalleled visual style. "Big Fish" is no exception. It is at times whimsical, fantastical and flamboyant. Unlike many of Burton's other films, however "Big Fish" is a hugely emotional, hugely

human story unlike any he has ever done. This is the story of Edward Bloom—played by Albert Finney as an old man and by Ewan McGregor as a young man— who has always had a way with stories. His charm comes from the tall tales he tells about his life but his son Will (Billy Crudup) has heard them one too many times. Will becomes tired of the over-the-top legends he's sure are all made up.

The story takes place when his mother (Jessica Lange) tries to bring the two back together as Edward's health diminishes. Finney does a great job as the old storyteller, and Lange packs a lot of emotional resonance into a small part for her. The story is fun and you really feel a connection with Bloom, which makes finding out the truth in the end quite powerful. The movie is brimming over with fairytale-like characters which are all

handled amazingly, from Danny Devito's portrayal as the head of a circus with a dark secret to Mathew McGrory as Karl the Giant.

The movie however, does falter in a few places. In particular, I felt Crudup's role as Will was often unconvincing. They never really show why he resents his father as strongly as he does, and I think Crudup gives up a pretty much two-dimensional character. Also, you can see that Burton is far more interested in the whimsical flashbacks of the film which really took a lot of potential character-enriching moments and boiled them down to special effects. Overall, the movie is fantastically different and I'd recommend it to just about anyone. It's a personality-packed Tim Burton tilt-a-whirl with an ending I would challenge anyone not to shed a tear at.

★★★★☆

The Last Samurai

First of all I should say that I am not a big fan of Tom Cruise. I recognize he has some talent and he has had moments of acting prowess with flicks like "Jerry Maguire" and "Vanilla Sky," but overall I think he tends to crap a lot of the emotion out of his roles and turn whomever he's playing into the typical Tom-Cruise-strong-jawed-sleek action hero. That being said, I was not expecting much from this film even though I love samurais and war epics. This was an amazing piece of work. Brilliantly directed, beautifully crafted and intelligently written, it is a thoughtfully crafted war epic of scope and power.

Directed by Edward Zwick, the story centers on two warriors separated by their cultures but brought together by honor and pain. Nathan Algren (Cruise) is a drunken old Civil War veteran who is given the opportunity to make quite a lot of money if he will train the fledgling Japanese military in the ways of war. Katsumoto (Ken Watanabe) is the leader of the proud samurai war-

riors who are battling the new economic interests and modernization of Japan, which he believes is in service to the emperor. Algren is captured by the samurai and lives among them, learning their ways and eventually forming a bond with Katsumoto and finding himself on the other side of the battle.

The real strength of this movie is the direction. Zwick is masterful in creating a richly beautiful and poignant film. The cinematography is jaw dropping and the fight scenes are second to none. The other great thing about this flick is Ken Watanabe as Katsumoto. He gives one of the best performances I've seen in a long time and really out-acts Cruise, who is sufficient but never really sells a lot of Algren's pain and remorse. The only other beef I have is that the very end of the movie seems to sell out its theme a bit in exchange for a happy ending, and I would have liked to have seen it stay true to itself. Overall, go and see this movie while it's at the theater. If you don't, you'll probably regret it.

★★★★☆